

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy of a telephone call on October 20, 2003 confirming entry of the Preliminary Amendment filed by facsimile on June 26, 2003.

Claims 27-29 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 27-29 are amended to specifically recite "bisphenol A." Support is found in the specification, for example, at page 5, lines 14-19. No new matter is added.

Claim 29 is amended to recite that the transparent polymer substrate has a thickness in the range of 0.02 to 0.7 mm. Support is found at page 6, lines 21-25 of the specification. No new matter is added.

This amendment adds no new issues, requires no further search, and places this application in immediate condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered and considered.

Claims 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent 6,183,829 ("Daecher").

In response, Applicants submit the present claims that emphasize the difference between Daecher and the claimed invention.

In further support of patentability of the present invention, Applicants provide the attached Declaration of Mr. Toru Hanada.

Daecher does not disclose a substrate which has a total light transmittance of 80% or more and which is formed by a solvent casting method resulting in the polymer substrate of claim 27 which has having excellent surface smoothness and optical isotropy, as described at page 5, lines 11-13 of Applicants' specification. Daecher merely discloses a plastic sheet produced by a process comprising the step of providing molten plastic resin (column 2, lines 30-

41). One of ordinary skill, upon reading Daecher, would understand that the disclosed process necessarily uses molten resin (ex. column 10, lines 15, 36, and 37).

Moreover, Daecher neither discloses nor suggests Applicants' specific bisphenol composition. Applicants' claims recite bisphenol A and 9,9-bis(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)fluorene bisphenol, which the cited art neither discloses nor suggests. Therefore, Daecher does not present a *prima facie* obviousness rejection. This conclusion is supported by the attached second Declaration of Toru Hanada. (A previous, less detailed declaration was filed May 27, 2003.)

The attached Declaration of Toru Hanada (1) shows that Applicants' claimed invention cannot be made from the disclosure of Daecher and (2) demonstrates the unexpected superiority of the instantly claimed invention.

Applicants conducted experiments comparing the claimed invention (Run 2) to examples comparable to the closest examples disclosed in Daecher. When a transparent polymer substrate composed of a polycarbonate copolymer (BisA/BCF-PC) of the present invention was formed by melting at high temperature of 340°C using a method similar to the method of Daecher, the resulting plastic sheet was fragile, brittle and displayed an undesirable hue (Run 1). As to Run 3, the film produced by the molten polycarbonate was fragile and did not form a film. Therefore, the film of the comparative examples were not suitable for use as a transparent polymer substrate for a liquid crystal component.

On the other hand, a transparent polymer substrate composed of the polycarbonate of Run 2 of the present invention had superior brittleness and hue. Therefore, the claimed polycarbonate is unexpectedly superior for use as a transparent polymer substrate suitable for a liquid crystal component. Moreover, the examples of Daecher do not lead to the claimed invention.

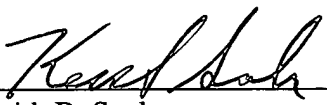
In regard to the experimental evidence of unexpected superiority, part (2) of Mr. Hanada's Declaration demonstrates the advantages of Applicants' claimed polycarbonate, as compared to the example in Daecher, APEC DP9371. As shown in Table 2, the oxygen penetration rate and pencil hardness is markedly superior for the examples using the presently claimed bisphenol A and 9,9-bis(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)fluorene bisphenol.

The Declaration of Mr. Hanada therefore rebuts any presumption of obviousness. For at least these reasons, the present claims are patentable, and it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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